

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 04058

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, TZ, UK, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SECRETARY'S MEETING APRIL 15 WITH NYERERE

1. PRESIDENT NYERERE REQUESTED PRIVATE MEETING WITH US-UK
AFTERNOON APRIL 15. SECRETARY, DR. OWEN, SPAIN, GRAHAM, TAN-
ZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA AND PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY MDEE
WERE PRESENT.

2. NYERERE SAID HE HAD JUST FINISHED MEETING WITH FRONT LINE
AND NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE ON
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THE IMPORTANCE OF DEFINING FUNCTIONS OF
RESIDENT COMMISSIONER SO THAT RC HAD ALL THE POWERS HE NEEDED.
HE BRUSHED ASIDE QUESTION OF DIVISION OF SEATS ON GOVERNING
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COUNCIL, SAYING THAT IF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER HAD POWER HE
NEEDED, THAT WAS ALL THAT COUNTED DURING TRANSITION PERIOD.
HOWEVER, POLITICAL REALITIES OF PF POWER SHOULD BE REFLECTED
ON COUNCIL.

3. NYERERE THOUGHT QUESTION OF CLARIFYING UN ROLE COULD BE
WORKED OUT. (PF NOW PREPARING PAPER ON THIS.)

4. HOWEVER, NYERERE HAS COME TO BELIEVE THAT PF CASE ON POLICE ROLE IS STRONG ONE, AND THE FRONT LINE CANNOT DENY THEM SOMETHING IN THIS AREA. THE EXISTING POLICE ARE REALLY SMITH'S. THEY DON'T HAVE TO GO, BUT THEY MUST BE BALANCED WITH PF'S OWN PEOPLE. "WHAT IS WRONG WITH THREE-MEN-IN-A-JEEP?"

5. OWEN RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR MANY OF THE PF'S DEMANDS. PERHAPS, IN A SUBSEQUENT AND DIFFERENT SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY MIGHT BE PRACTICAL. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSALS TO TAKE POWER IN KEY AREAS OUT OF THE RC'S HANDS, TO GIVE DOMINANT POWER TO THE PF ON THE COUNCIL, AND TO CHANGE THE WHOLE CHARACTER OF THE POLICE APPARATUS WERE SIMPLY NOT PART OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. APART FROM THEIR BEING NEW AND RETROGRESSIVE, THEY WOULD UPSET THE FRAGILE BALANCE OF THE A-AP. OWEN DID NOT SEE HOW WE COULD ACCEPT THEM.

6. SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT RESIDENT COMMISSIONER WAS KEY PART OF A-AP. HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY FOR SUCCESS IF HIS POWER DILUTED. EQUITY AND REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER WERE IMPORTANT ON GOVERNING COUNCIL: TO THE OTHER PARTIES AND TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION, INCLUDING THAT IN THE US. HE ASKED IF PF INSISTENCE ON POLICE ROLE GREW OUT OF THEIR DESIRE WHEN THEY CAME HOME TO ZIMBABWE FOR VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF THEIR SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE. NYERERE SAID "NOT PRIMARILY," IT GREW OUT OF NEED TO "BALANCE" REGIME POLICE FORCE. HE ASKED US-UK TO GIVE ALL WE COULD ON PGPCE
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FORCE. AT END OF MEETING ALL AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF NOT LETTING EFFORTS OF PAST YEAR GO DOWN DRAIN.

7. COMMENT: NYERERE WAS TESTING TEMPER OF US-UK BEFORE MAKING HIS FINAL APPROACH TO PF. NYERERE CAN BE COUNTED ON TO BE HELPFUL ON POWERS OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER. BUT KEY ISSUE IS GOING TO BE ON POLICE, AND ALL WE CAN EXPECT THERE IS THAT HE WILL REFLECT US-UK STRONG FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT. ALL WE HAVE FOR SURE AT THE MOMENT IS AGREEMENT (CONFIRMED BY PF IN PRIVATE MEETINGS THIS MORNING) ON THE CONTINUING DESIRABILITY OF AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE.
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